"When my husband was living,"

said Sylvia as she pinned up a tiny

House.

"Cheer up," said Wallingford;

up the stocking beside him heard the

"Mrs. Vale, I can't keep this anoth-

wooden blocks don't break."

found its way into Sylvia's hand.

er minute," Wallingford said.

Dorothy Douglas

AD Wallingford been anything but a wealthy bachelor and accustomed to having everything he wanted. the circumstances would have seemed less of a

He had been on his way midway, in the most barren desert of the warmth of the house the country, a bridge had been swept tion could not possibly be reached un- question. til Christmas was well over.

The latest and most wonderful toys old friend and-" or not a highwayman might be looking six or seven months agodiamonds flashed back at him.

Wallingford leaned back in his sister's joy when slipping that ring night to be out." on her finner. He could hear her scold him for his extravagance and clad figure in a decidedly chaotic chaff him for having no one clse for state of mind. Mingled with his emwhom to buy such baubles. He sighed and returned it to his pocket much an absolute stranger's house, was the

Stories of Success

PHILIP D. ARMOUR



tically exhausted. He studied
cortunities, and instead of
for noid he duy ditches for
p had mines, but no water. worked hard, Hved carefully, worked hard, Hwed carefully, wasted not a penny. When a to return home he had laid anug sum. Once, when asked was the turning point in his n he replied: "The time when san to save what I carned at gold fields; thrift and economy much to do with ray success," areng point is he saved. Savely what county. You can open

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under the present circumstances. Wallingford was reconciled to a

Volume 16, Number 34

Christmas dinner over a lunch counter when his eye caught the name of Yankville. Yankville probably boasted a near-thousand inhabitant, yet Yankville also suggested the name of Everly-Jack Everly. When Wallingford had last heard of Jack Everly the latter was located in Yankville. That was some eighteen months before, but there was no reason why he should not be there still.

It seemed that everyone in Yankville knew the Everly home ead. It was the only one of any proportions in the village.

The red glow from an open fire within cheered Wallingford's numbed faculties as he rang the bell at the

On the face of her who opened the door, surprise was the principal expression. For, Wallingford, his sixfeet-two encased in a great fur coat all dangling with glistening snow beads and his handsome glowing face looking frankly into her own, was a

surprise for any eyes. She did not wait for him to explain to San Francisco to spend Christmas his errand but with the matron's privwith his favorite married sister; and Hege of hospitality invited him into

"It was too cold to stand outside," away by winter gales. His destina- she explained and walted for his "I am Bob Wallingford," he began

Wallingtord cast a glance out over meeting the easy cordial expression the wide stretch of rolling plains with of her blue eyes. "I am one of the only a few scattered shacks to break belated passengers of the bridge tietheir endless waste; and then he up and decided to run over and see if looked back to his bulging suit case. Jack Everly would take pity on an

he could find in the city shops were "Jack Everly left Tankville," a quartet," said Sylvia. crowded into that bag, for his sister's smile played about her lips at menonly boy. Then, not caring whether tion of the Blustrious village, "some

in at the window of the parlor car, Embarrassment, disappointment and coat pocket and looked sorrowfully ford's face and did not escape the at a ring from which three exquisite eyes of Sylvia Vale. She spoke with ready tact.

"Take off that great coat, anyway,

Wallingford followed the slim graybarrassment at having walked into sudden attraction he felt for this girl with the sun-lit hair. Something-the combination perhaps-was making him feel like a tongue-tied schoolboy. It was a most unusual state of mind for Bob Wallingford.

There was a patter of little feet and a tiny boy of three years threw himself into Wallingford's arms.

"Oh-h! Are you Santa Claus?" he cried gleefully. "I heard your sleigh bells and saw your big fuzzy coat! Mamma, isn't he Santa Claus?" spoken but Wallingford's eyes plead- stand, South Main street.

"You young rascal! You caught

of the sea; it would do him as much good there as it would in his pocket

"Wallingford! How in the name of all that's possible did you get here?' Dick Elkins, an old chum of New

A weight of relief fell from Wallingford's shoulders. He was no longer a he magine it, or did a glad light come

when they had shaken hands.

"Sis, you never told me-

"I will stay under one condition only," he said finally, "and that is that you all will accept, without protest, the Christmas gifts which I brought for my sister and her family-with-

There was a moment's silence and the promise was made, laughingly. "But we will have to return the favor," brother and shiter spoke as one

So it was decided. "Too bad Vale couldn't get here," remarked Elkins, later in the evening when, the small boy having been

tucked into bed, the three sat about the blazing fire.

which she remarked that her husband would have completed a quartet on he took a small box from his waist- surprise mingled equally in Walling- Christmas eve had he been able to get there, was rather disconcerting. Dick Elkins arose and left the room

> "Bring down the suitcase in my excited as a boy.

> You will not regret having promised to accept what I had bought for Wallingford leaned slightly toward Sylvia's gray dress and through the strands of her golden hair, and the man in him had a struggle before quenching the light in his

If you want to see the latest Shoe styles, walk down and look at the display in BIG PETE'S show window.

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as he might have cast it to the depths old Santy this time, didn't you? And own eyes. It was the girl herself who the flashing diamond ring was un. Christmas lest he or she walk after he came especially to find out what was unable to hide a tremor. "I promise," she said unsteadily. you wanted him to bring down the 'But it seems-odd.'

gladly into the spirit of Christmas.

York days, stood in the doorway and held out a glad hand of welcome. stranger in a strange house. And did

also into the eyes of the woman? "How about yourself?" he asked

"This is my own house and my own sister," laughed Elkins. "But where in the world did you and Mrs. Vale strike up an acquaintance?" He cast an interrogative glance at his sisetr.

Sylvia glanced quickly at Wallingford and a deep blush mingled with the glow from the fire in her cheeks. She explained the circumstances and Wallingford was quickly made to feel that he had come to the right house.

out question."

Invited Him Into the Warmth of the "Yes-we would have made a jolly

stocking, "he always spoke of the day Wallingford was almost guilty of a when he could do this-" The end The calm, unconcerned way in of her sentence was drowned in the clatter of a huge box of blocks dropping to the hearthstone.

to get the boy's toys. hair and in imagination pictured his and come into the fireside. It's no room," cried Wallingford. He was as

make sis take-"You promised." The eyes of the Dick returned, staggering under a two men met and Elkins knew then load of toys. Then they all jumped and there what Wallingford's lips

would speak. With two of the oposite sex against her Sylvia had little chance to demur and with a tingling sensation in every nerve she slipped the ring on her

It was late the next night when the child had again been tucked in bed to dream of a wonderful day in the kingdom of toys with three grown up people to play with him, that he three again sat about the open fire.

"I never spent a happier Christmas," said Wallingford with a glad ring in his voice.

"Nor I," put in Dick. "Vale missed a good time all right," he added sleep-"Sis and her brother-in-law are quite smitten." And unaware of the havoc he had created in Wallingford's heart he took his departure for bed, leaving the two in stience.

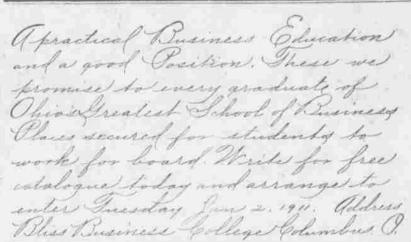
But the silence was a complete one -one in which spoken words and thoughts were unnecessary. After a moment Wallingford leaned forward and compelled Sylvia's eyes and while he did so he took her right hand and removed the ring and put it firmly on the third finger of her left hand.

"Next Christmas," he said tenderly, we will spend at our own fireside. It is all very sudden and very wonderful, Sylvia, but I always do important things suddenly and-love is always

Holly and Mistletoe. In the language of flowers holly sig-

nifles foresight, and mistletoe means "I have surmounted all difficulties." Holly, as everyone knows, is the symbol or sign of Christmas, but the custom of using it is older than Christianity. The Romans sent friendly greetings and sprigs of holly to one another during thier winter festival. For this reason, perhaps, it was taken to stand for the spirit of love and He stooped to pick the fallen toys and wondered if the woman pinning

thumping of his heart. A small box Mustn't Spin at Christmastide. In North Germany, where the practical yet poetic spinning wheel still hums in the cottages, one must not "Oh, I say!" exclaimed Dick when spin during the twelve nights of



wrapped. "You shouldn't expect to death. If the spinning is done after work. If one wishes to have money and good luck all the year, one should

> But don't you see that there is Santa Claus! He isn't a man in a fur coat, and a reindeer sleigh and all that, but he is the Spirit of Christmas, isn't he? They've personified that and made a saint of him and invented legends about him-for the children, but when we're no longer children and don't believe in him, we still have that Christmas spirit-and it's that that gives presents and makes us feel toward one another, and makes Christmas what it is .- Harvey J. O'Higgins.

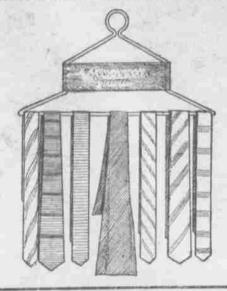
not fall to eat herring on New Year's

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TOWNSHIP, CORPORATION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVIES

To To Co Co Pu Pu Lik

Cor. Main and Fayette Sts.

Rates of Taxation.

stated in the following table, showing the number of mills levied on each Dollar of taxable property in the several townships, cities, villages and school districts of said county. State Levies—Sinking Fund, .0335; University Fund, .0825; Common Schools, .335. Total, .451. County Levies—County Fund, .9; Bridge Fund, .67; Building Fund, .2; County Ditch, .2; Judicial Fund, .2; Hospital Fund, .05: Pike Repair, .7; Agriculture, .02; Blind Relief, .06. Total, 3.00.

| | TOWNSHIPS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CORPORATIONS. | tate Levy | ounty Levy. | tate and County Levy | Cownship General | Yownship-Poor | lownship-Road | 'ownship-Bridge | ownship-Cemetery | ownship-Ditch | orporation-Library. | orporation-Health | ehool | eneral | ablic Health | ublic Safety | ublic Service | lbrary | nking | pedal | Re- | |
|---|---|---|--|--|------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|--|---------------------|--|--------|--------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|--|--|--|
| | | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mille | Mills | Mills | Mills | Mills | Milla | Milla | Mills |
| 1 | Blackereck township Butler township Butler attached to Washington Burntwood School District Dahlinghaus school District Philothea School District Frenzer and Uppenkamp School District Coldwater School District Coldwater School District Coldwater corporation Center township Center township Denter, attached to Jefferson Dublin township Marcer School District Bockford School District Bothinghaus School District Franklin School District Klosterman School District Bosterman School District Bontezuma School District Bockford School District | 461 461 461 461 461 461 461 461 461 461 | \$ | 1. 4.4.4.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1 | .00 | 032 034 039 038 038 038 033 033 033 043 044 144 144 144 144 144 144 144 144 144 | .07 .07 .07 .17 .17 .08 .06 .06 .06 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 .08 | | .300 .800 .300 .300 .300 .300 .300 .300 | .079 .070 .070 .070 .070 .070 .070 | | 25 (55 (55 (55 (55 (55 (55 (55 (55 (55 (| 48 614 | 7727 | .208 .208 .200 .200 .200 .200 .200 .200 | .40 .40 .25 .10 .70 | ,613 1,000 280 1,000 | ab | 2.06 8.00 | 1.48 1.48 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 | 5.10 7.00 6.00 | 1 2 8 4 5 6 7 7 8 9 9 111 12 233 4 5 6 6 7 8 9 9 111 12 233 4 5 6 6 6 7 8 9 9 111 12 233 4 5 6 6 6 7 8 9 9 111 12 233 4 5 6 6 6 7 8 9 9 111 13 13 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 |

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Coat Chains, Umbrellas, Lappell Buttons, Military Brushes, Clothes Brushes, Emblem Pins, Emblem Rings, Smoking Sets, Shaving Sets, Cigar Jars, Match Boxes.

And many, many other articles we have not the time nor space to enumerate. But we very earnestly solicit an inspection of our line.

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Celina, Ohio, October 31, 1911.

JNO. B. ALBERS, Treasurer of Mercer County, Ohio.